

it be the local school district, the ESU, the technical college, whatever it might be. On a statewide average that is roughly 62 cents out of every property tax dollar goes toward education. In some districts, that is much higher. I know in the Omaha area, it is approximately 70 cents out of every dollar. In some districts, it is lower, but it is very easy to say that well over half of the property tax dollar that is paid by our constituents goes toward the funding of education at the local level. We have all heard that the need and the cry, the holler, that property taxes are extremely high in the State of Nebraska, and we have had a number of studies, a number of national surveys that have brought this to our attention. And Senator Moore and other members of the body brought a number of proposals to the Revenue Committee this year that dealt with the issue of property taxes, and in one form or another, there were over 32 bills that dealt with the issue of property taxes, dealt with either a reduction or a shift, some form of change in how we address the issue of property taxes. And what the Revenue Committee did was we sent three bills to the floor. We sent LB 611, which was Senator Moore's bill that deals with a restructuring of the funding, to move us away gradually, as it may be, from the reliance on property taxes. We sent Senator Howard Lamb's bill, which follows this bill, LB 84 which was a rebate bill, 10 percent. That is one that is favored by the agricultural interest in this state, and we also sent Senator Chizek's bill, LB 747, I think, or 737, one of the two, that follows Senator Lamb's bill, and that was a bill that dealt with the interest in the form of a homestead exemption that the urban folks tend to favor. After we sent those bills, we, basically, killed every other property tax proposal outside of LB 809, which was the Governor's proposal, that we heard toward the end of the session, and...end of the committee hearings, excuse me, and then that bill was ultimately last week advanced to the floor, but we sent these three bills to the floor feeling that they provided a vehicle in one way or another, in either one bill or another, the opportunity for us to address, not only short-term property tax relief, but also the issue of long-term change with regard to how we fund education and, ultimately, long-term property tax relief. The bill that we have before us, LB 611, was...it was decided that it would become a bill through Senator Moore's amendment, which will follow, that will address the long-term aspect. The problem that we have had in the past with addressing the property tax issue, the shift, if you will, away from property taxes, is that there has not been a mechanism by which the monies that we pump in kept consistent with the